

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SECTO 06018 170016Z
ACTION SS-15

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 6018

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FOR TARNOFF ONLY FROM SPIEGEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SATURDAY NIGHT SPEECH

1. AFTER GIVING MR. VANCE BOTH TEXTS COLD HE CHOSE THE
SECOND AND REVISED IT. HE WOULD LIKE YOU TO SEND IT TO
THE WHITE HOUSE SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE ANY CHANGES THEY
DESIRE. TEXT FOLLOWS:

I AM PRIVILEGED TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING IN PAYING TRIBUTE
TO PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
AND THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., I BRING YOU
PRESIDENT CARTER'S GOOD WISHES AND DEEP REGRETS THAT HE
COULD NOT BE WITH YOU. HE HAS ASKED ME TO READ THIS
MESSAGE IN HIS STEAD. BEGIN QUOTE.

"AMERICA HONORS THE MEMORY OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT
F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT A TIME WHEN
THEIR LIFE'S WORK REMAINS UNFISHED. THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE
WE CAN PAY THESE GOOD MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR HUMAN
DIGNITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IS TO PLEDGE THAT WE WILL
FINISH THEIR WORK IN OUR LIFETIME.

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THESE MEN BELIEVED THAT RACIAL PREJUDICE DENIES
TO SOME AMERICANS WHAT OUR CONSTITUTION LAWS AND MORAL
VALUES PROMISE FOR ALL. THEY AND WE AGREE THAT OUR GOVERN-
MENT MUST REMAIN EVER VIGILANT TO ANY VIOLATION OF CIVIL
RIGHTS. BUT WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT LEGISLATION AND
COURT DECREES CANNOT ALONE SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. WE
MUST FIND IT IN OUR HEARTS TO ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER IN THEIR

SCHOOLS, HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

THESE MEN BELIEVED THAT ALL AMERICANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND FREELY IN OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM. THEY FOUGHT FOR THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE GRARANTEES OF CIVIL RIGHTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY EXPANDED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. OUR TASK MUST BE TO INSURE THAT ALL AMERICANS HAVE THE CHANCE TO SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM. THE CHALLENGE WE FACE IS TO PROVIDE MORE JOBS AND BETTER EDUCATION SO THAT RIGHTS WON CAN BE JOINED WITH ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

THESE MEN BELIEVED IN PEACE. THEY WERE MEN OF PEACE DEDICATED TO HARMONY AMONG NATIONS AND MEN. OUR NATION CAN ACCEPT NO NOBLER GOAL THAN TO SEEK PEACE AT HOME AND ABROAD WITH THE SAME TIRELESS DEDICATION WHICH THEY GAVE TO THIS CAUSE. THE NATION HONORS PRESIDENT KENNEDY, SENATOR KENNEDY AND DR. KING FOR WHAT THEY GAVE ALL OF US KNOWING FULL WELL THE CHALLENGES WE INHERIT AS PART OF THEIR LEGACY." END QUOTE.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A PERSONAL NOTE. AS ONE WHO DEEPLY ADMIRER THESE MEN FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, THEIR SACRIFICES, AND THEIR DREAMS OF AN AMERICA FREE OF PREJUDICE.

THE MEN WE HONOR THIS EVENING ALTERED THE COURSE OF A NATION DURING DIFFICULT TIMES. THEIR EXAMPLE
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SERVES US WELL AS WE CONFRONT NO LESS DIFFICULT CHALLENGES TODAY.

IT IS MY HOPE AND PRAYER THAT THE VIOLENCE AND HATE AGAINST WHICH THESE MEN FOUGHT AND WHICH TOOK THEM FROM US WILL BE ERADICATED FROM OUR LIFE.

THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE NATION FACES AT HOME AND ABROAD WILL NEVER BE SOLVED BY VIOLENCE. IF WE HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THE DIFFICULT DECADE OF THE 60'S IT IS THIS.

IN REMEMBERING PRESIDENT KENNEDY, SENATOR KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., LET US RESOLVED THAT WE WILL WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER NATION AND WORLD IN THE SAME SPIRIT WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE ASKED OF US: WITH COMPASSION, WITH IDEALISM AND WITH COURAGE.
VANCE

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